

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 184231 TOSEC 190143

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 184231 TOSEC 190143

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT SENT ACTION TO SECSTATE INFO CAIRO JUL 7, 1976
FROM TEHRAN

QUOTE S E C R E T TEHRAN 6860

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IR, US

SUB: PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT TO IRAN

REF: (A) STATE 145658, (B) TEHRAN 6306

1. DURING AUDIENCE ON AFTERNOON JULY 6, SHAH SAID THAT HE HAD
PROMISED YOU A REPORT ON PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT HERE.

2. AFTER INDICATING THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAD ASKED FOR NO
FINANCIAL OR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (SEPTTEL), SHAH SAID THAT SADAT
HAD GIVEN HIM A RATHER OPTIMISTIC BRIEF ON WHAT A PROMISING
FUTURE EGYPT HAS IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE. HE REFERRED TO THE
POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED OIL PRODUCTION IN SUEZ WATERS AS WELL
AS IN WESTERN EGYPT NEAR THE LIBYAN BORDER. SADAT SEEMED TO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 184231 TOSEC 190143

WANT TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT EGYPT WAS FINDING ITS WAY

OUT OF ITS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

3. THE SHAH STATED THAT DURING HIS TALKS WITH SADAT PURSUANT TO REFTEL (A), SADAT TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD ENCOURAGED THE IRAQIS TO SEND TROOPS TO THE SYRIAN BORDER. (THE SHAH SAID HE HAD PURPOSELY OMITTED THIS SENSITIVE ITEM WHEN HE SENT ME THE REPORT CONTAINED IN REFTEL (B).) IN RESPONSE TO THIS STATEMENT BY SADAT, THE SHAH TOLD HIM THAT PERHAPS THIS WAS NOT TOO BAD AN IDEA IF IT WERE DESIGNED SIMPLY TO GIVE SYRIA A LESSON, BUT THAT SUCH A POLICY COULD BECOME VERY DANGEROUS IF PURSUED SINCE IT MIGHT CAUSE A SETBACK FOR THE SYRIAN BA'ATH IN ITS RIVALRY WITH THE IRAQI BA'ATH. PUT ANOTHER WAY, THE SHAH INSISTED THAT HE LEANED HEAVILY ON SADAT NOT TO FOLLOW ANY POLICY WHICH WOULD HAVE THE END RESULT OF DRIVING SYRIA AND IRAQ TOGETHER AND FORMING "RED CRESCENT." THE SHAH IS PERSUADED THAT HE HAS TURNED SADAT AROUND ON HIS SYRIAN-IRAQI POLICY ALONG THE LINES YOU INDICATED. THE SHAH ALSO FEELS THAT HE CONTRIBUTED TO THE SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN RAPPROCHEMENT UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE KUWAITIS AND SAUDI ARABIANS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED DURING SADAT'S VISIT A "DESPERATE MESSAGE" FROM THE SAUDI AUTHORITIES ASKING FOR HIS HELP IN PERSUADING THE EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS TO COMPOSE THEIR DIFFERENCES. THE SHAH ALSO INDICATED THAT HE HAS DONE EVERYTHING HE COULD TO PERSUADE THE SAUDIS AND THE JORDANIANS TO STAND FAST WITH THE SYRIANS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO BRING PEACE TO LEBANON. HERE ALSO HE FEELS HE SUCCEEDED.

4. SHAH TOLD ME THAT HE HAD RECEIVED THE IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER DURING THE SADAT VISIT AND THAT ALMOST ALL ISSUES BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ HAVE NOW BEEN STRAIGHTENED OUT. HE COMMENTED WITH A GRIN THAT ONE COULD NOTE "PERFIDY OF DIPLOMACY" IN THE FACT THAT HE WAS PUTTING THE FINAL TOUCHES ON IRAN-IRAQI AGREEMENTS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PRESSURING PRESIDENT SADAT TO USE HIS INFLUENCE TO ISOLATE IRAQ. INCIDENTALLY, THE SHAH COMMENTED: QUOTE I WOULD NOT HAVE BELIEVED AT THE TIME OF ALGIERS THAT IRAQ AND IRAN COULD NEGOTIATE ALL THESE AGREEMENTS IN SUCH A SHORT TIME FRAME. THE ANSWER TO THE SUCCESS PROBABLY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 184231 TOSEC 190143

LIES IN THE FACT THAT BOTH SIDES KEPT THEIR WORD. END QUOTE.

5. THE SHAH ALSO TOLD ME THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH SADAT COLONEL QADHAFI AND HIS VARIOUS CAPERS. HE ADDED THAT BOTH WERE CONVINCED THAT QADHAFI IS DESTROYING THE ARAB WORLD. HE POINTED TO THE RECENT EVENTS IN KHARTOUM AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE. HE AND SADAT ALSO AGREED THAT AN ALMOST DISASTROUS SITUATION WOULD BE CREATED IF "LEFTISTS" ARE

ABLE TO PUSH THROUGH TO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN VIA THE SAHARA
THUS BYPASSING THE TRADITIONAL GATEWAY IN THE STRAIT OF
GIBRALTER. IN THIS CONNECTION THE SHAH TOLD SADAT THAT
HE WANTED TO HELP MOROCCO AS MUCH AS HE COULD. AS A
RESULT, SADAT AGREED THAT IRANIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT COULD
USE EGYPTIAN AIR FIELDS FOR TRANSIT PURPOSES IF IT BECAME NECESSARY.

6. SPEAKING OF THE PALESTINIANS, THE SHAH TOLD ME THAT
EVERY STATESMAN, INCLUDING SADAT, WHO HAS VISITED HIM IN
RECENT MONTHS AGREES PRIVATELY THAT THEY ARE THE BIGGEST
PROBLEM IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND A MAJOR INFLUENCE FOR BAD.
THERE SEEMS TO BE GENERAL AGREEMENT, ACCORDING TO THE
SHAH, THAT ANY PALESTINIAN STATE IS BOUND TO GO TO THE
LEFT. IF IT DOES NOT, HABBASH AND COMPANY WILL CONTINUE
ITS ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY, THEREBY NULLIFYING
ANY BENEFIT WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN DERIVED FROM FOUNDING
THE STATE IN THE FIRST PLACE. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE
BELIEVED THAT ANY PALESTINIAN NATION WOULD BE MANIPULATED
BY THE INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST MOVEMENT. THE SHAH
OBVIOUSLY HAS NO SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM, HE SIMPLY
WANTED TO SHARE HIS VIEWS WITH US.

HELMS UNQUOTE
ROBINSON

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